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NEWS AND NOTES

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING¹ OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

Hotel La Salle, Chicago, February 26-27, 1919

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

GENERAL SESSION 9:30 A.M.

President's Address: War and Poetry—EDWIN L. MILLER, Principal of Northwestern High School, Detroit, Michigan.

The Anglo-American Ideal—EMERSON VENABLE, Walnut Hills High School, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Teaching of American Ideals in English Classes—CHARLES S. PENDLETON, University of Wisconsin.

Government Plans for Reorganization, Americanization, and School Service—J. W. SEARSON, Managing Editor of *School Service*, Washington, D.C.

CONFERENCE ON SUPERVISION, 2:00 P.M.

Improvement of Teachers in Service—CHARLES S. THOMAS, Supervisor of English, Cleveland, Ohio.

Procedure with Standard Tests—C. C. CERTAIN, Cass Technical High School, Detroit, Michigan.

Specific Aims in the Course in Literature—G. EUNICE MEERS, North High School, Des Moines, Iowa.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 4:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE ON VOCATIONAL ENGLISH, 8:00 P.M.

The Problems of the Committee on Vocational English—NATHANIEL W. BARNES, Chairman, University of Chicago.

Conditions in the Secondary Schools—LEVERETT L. LYON, University of Chicago.

Business Correspondence—L. H. BEALL, Sears, Roebuck & Company, Chicago, Illinois.

¹ Postponed from November 28-30, 1918, and now to be held in connection with the N.E.A. Department of Superintendence.

Journalism in School and College—WILLARD M. BLEYER, University of Wisconsin.

Speech Improvement among Employees—MRS. LOUISE SCHAEFER, Marshall Field & Company, Chicago, Illinois.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

GENERAL SESSION, 9:30 A.M.

American Speech Week throughout the Nation—CLAUDIA CRUMPTON, Ensley High School, Birmingham, Alabama.

SECTION MEETINGS, 2:00 P.M.

Discussion. Symposium: Adjusting English Teaching to the Needs of the Times.

Senior and Junior High School and Grammar Grades

Teaching Some American Ideals through English Composition—RICHARD L. SANDWICK, Principal of Deerfield-Shields Township High School, Highland Park, Illinois.

Farm Boys' English—MARTHA CLAY, Central High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Projects in Literature—MARIETTA HYDE, East Technical High School, Cleveland, Ohio.

Gleanings from Freshman English—FLORENCE LIVINGSTON JOY, Oberlin, Ohio.

College and Normal School

Pedagogical Aspects of Linguistic Ability—G. C. BRANDENBURG, Purdue University.

The Marking of English Themes—JAMES CLOYD BOWMAN, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

"English A" Once More—FRANKLIN B. SNYDER, Northwestern University.
Preliminary Report of the Committee on Provision for the Training of Teachers—JOSEPH M. THOMAS, University of Minnesota.

Library

Conference on the Problems of School and College Librarians. Leader: HELEN S. BABCOCK, Austin High School, Chicago, Illinois.

GENERAL SESSION, 8:00 P.M.

New and unfinished business.

Reports of committees.

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

The eleventh annual meeting of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English convened in the auditorium of the Christian Church of Champaign on November 22, 1918. President Trams called the session to order at nine o'clock. After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, the presentation of the treasurer's report, and the appointment by the chair of a nominating committee, the session proceeded to the reading and discussion of papers.

President Trams's address, "Better Oral English," as is usually the case with the president's address, perhaps because it comes first on the program before the ice of reserve is broken, was not discussed. It was, however, both practical and suggestive.

Owing to the inability of Miss McKinney to be present, the report of the committee on "Minimum Essentials" was not presented. Upon motion of Professor Paul the committee was continued for another year, with assurance of the Association's appreciation of the work the committee has already done.

Mr. Widger, of Charleston, then presented the report of the committee on "Training in American Ideals." This committee made six recommendations: (1) American ideals should not be taught in separate courses labeled "Ideals," but in connection with the study of American classics, because, in the opinion of the committee, the best repository of these ideals is the written words of the greatest Americans of the last century; (2) There should be separate courses in American literature, because of its distinctive qualities as compared with English literature; (3) American literature should be invariably a required and no longer an elective subject; (4) Extensive reading should be encouraged. Every school should possess a library; (5) There should be a more extensive use of current periodicals in the attempt to show the application of social ideals to modern life; (6) Respect should be cultivated for our heritage of English speech.

Professor Sherman of the university followed with a discussion of "The English Teacher and the War." In this paper he showed how at the university this year an attempt had been made in the war-issues course to apply some of the principles that Mr. Widger's committee had advocated. Upon the conclusion of Professor Sherman's paper, Professor Paul moved that Mr. Widger's committee be asked to consider the possibility of establishing such a course in the high school.

The nominating committee presented its report, naming for president, Superintendent J. O. Huff, of Abingdon; for secretary, E. C. Baldwin,

of the university; for treasurer, Mrs. Bert. Abernathy, of Pontiac; as chairman of the executive committee, H. D. Widger, of Charleston; and as other members of the executive committee, A. F. Trams (term expiring 1919); B. S. Richardson, of Alton (term expiring 1920); Miss Alice Bidwell (term expiring 1921); and Miss Bess East, of Champaign (term expiring 1921). These nominations were acted upon favorably by the Association.

Professor Paul then conducted a discussion of the methods employed by various teachers during the last year in eleven selected high schools of the state to improve the speaking of their pupils. The teachers were asked to report upon the attitude of the other teachers in their schools toward the inauguration of the speech drive, upon the methods used in the conduct of the campaign, and upon the results secured.

Following this discussion, the Association adjourned to meet in joint session with the Modern Language section.

In one way the eleventh annual meeting was highly gratifying by reason of the relatively large number of university students who attended. It was a matter for regret, however, that so many of the high-school teachers who in former years had contributed to the helpfulness of the discussions were prevented by illness or other causes from attending.

E. C. BALDWIN, *Secretary*

THE PHILADELPHIA CLUB

The English Teachers' Club of Philadelphia and vicinity had unfortunately set the date of its regular fall meeting for November 11, with the result that Armistice Day came along just in time to upset all plans in a most thorough manner. It was but a small audience that gathered to hear Dr. Frederic Ernest Farrington, of Washington, D.C., who spoke on Americanization. His message was purposely general in its character, for, as he said in his introductory remarks, it was necessary to have a broad grasp of the problem before entering into the field of specific pedagogical methods in Americanization.

In his discussion Dr. Farrington made the following points:

1. Citizenship receptions are a most necessary and effective agency. Philadelphia held the first one ever given.
2. Industrial plants, for example that of Mr. Ford, have been interested in this movement.
3. The interest of wide-awake cities, such as Detroit, in the problem is indispensable.

4. The schools need the help of business men in every way, but the schools must do the work. All organizations, including labor unions and the press, must help.

5. Americanization has looked principally toward man, but woman needs it as much as he.

6. The integrity of the family must be preserved; there should never be any estrangement between the parents and the children as there has been owing to the fact that the former are ignorant of our language and customs.

The retiring President, Mr. Vincent Brecht of the Northeast High School, turned over the gavel to the newly elected President, Miss Olive Ely Hart of the Southern High School. The other officers elected were:

Vice-President, Dr. John Louis Haney, Central High School.

Secretary, Miss Isabelle Gill, William Penn High School.

Treasurer, Mr. Sidney Farbish, Frankford High School.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

The California Association held a meeting on December 14, devoted to the joint problems of the secondary and elementary schools. There were reports on desirable minimum requirements for graduation from the grammar school and for the successive divisions of the high-school course. During the summer it also enjoyed a very strong program, which was not reported because of the vacation conditions.

MARYLAND COUNCIL

Some associations are hard to kill. The president of the Maryland Council, W. H. Wilcox, accepted a position at Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia, and the vice-president, Arthur F. Smith, Lonaconing, also moved away, but the energetic secretary, Andrew H. Krug, Baltimore City College, sent out a ringing letter urging attendance at their meeting on November 29, for which he had provided the following excellent program:

- I. Use of War Material in the English Class—Miss Florence I. Arnold, Ellicott City.
- II. A Study of One of Shakespeare's Devices—"She Should Have Died Hereafter."—Macbeth—Miss M. Theresa Dallam, Western High School, Baltimore.
- III. A Speech-Improvement Drive—General Discussion.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

Members of the Alabama Association of Teachers of English were addressed by representative business and professional men at a luncheon at the Hillman Saturday. The meeting, designed as the first step in a movement to vitalize the teaching of English so that it fits the needs of the pupils going immediately into business and professional life, was largely attended both by local teachers and prominent workers in the Executive Committee of the State Educational Association now in consultation in this city.

Miss Cora Pearson, of Florence, President of the Alabama Educational Association, and Miss Janet Simpson, of Florence, President of the State Association of Teachers of English, were the honor guests of the occasion.

Superintendent Baker of the County School, in his introductory remarks as presiding officer, gave as the keynote of the discussions the preserving of the English language as a worthy means of expression for American and English democracy. C. L. Harold, of the Civic Association, emphasized the necessity of personality and correctness in business English; Commissioner John Hornady, the use of language simple and forceful enough to reach the least-developed intellect of the given audience; S. O. Steendahl, Supervisor of Vocational Education, the definiteness demanded of the vocational worker; President Willingham, of the Florence Normal, the importance of correct thinking as the basis of good expression; and W. C. Griggs, Chairman of the State Executive Committee, the urgency of immediate action in overcoming indifference to good habits of speech.

Other speakers were: Rev. David Pegues, associate pastor of the First Methodist Church; Mrs. V. W. Long and Mrs. J. D. Matlock who spoke from the parents' point of view; Miss Laura Spaulding, of the commercial department of the Central High School; J. C. Blackwell, Superintendent of the T. C. I. School, and Miss Claudia Crumpton, the leader in English Association work in the South. Judge Hugh Locke spoke on the national significance of speech which had inaugurated on this continent a new nation and had made it possible for that people to present itself as a champion of Liberty and Democracy for the world—*Birmingham News*.

THE WAR AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The war has taught many things, and doubtless if it had continued a year longer we should have seen more clearly the changes that we must make in our educational system. Perhaps the most startling thing thus

taught us was that our physical education is totally inadequate. Just at an age when our youths should be physical giants, more than one-third of them are rejected as physically incompetent. The opponents of a purely academic education cannot but be confounded by such a condition. Education in a democracy should fit the youth for full participation in the duties and privileges of citizenship, and certainly our past educational system has not done so.

Correction of this condition naturally takes two courses: first, immediate steps to improve our physical instruction; and, second, a permanent provision to be incorporated into our educational system looking to physical welfare. Already a committee of the National Education Association has introduced through Senator Hoke Smith a bill providing for national educational aid to the states to the extent of one hundred million dollars. A considerable part of this appropriation is to be spent on health education.

But the Smith bill has not yet passed. Until something permanent has been done, the Red Cross through its Junior department is undertaking to aid the teachers in personal hygiene education. They have provided for the organization of the Modern Health Crusaders in each Junior Red Cross Auxiliary. Like knights of old, the pupils take up certain tasks, the successful accomplishment of which entitles the pupil to wear the insignia of health knighthood. Continued observances of these health vows advances the young knight to higher orders, carrying advanced insignia, etc., until health observance becomes a habit.

THE PERIODICALS

AMERICAN IDEALS

In the *Educational Review* for December, A. Franklin Ross writes upon "American Ideals: How to Teach Them." He declares the outstanding American ideals to be a passion for democracy or self-government; equality of men, which is, by interpretation, equality of opportunity; accomplishment; and lastly, voluntary service, self-sacrificing co-operation for the common good. Unfortunately the only hint concerning the teaching of these ideals is his suggestion that our ideal of democracy should be studied historically, going back of the Revolution to South Carolina as well as to New England.

THE SOCIALIZED RECITATION

Hazel F. Burns in *Education* for November describes her notion of a "Group Socialized Recitation." It consists essentially of dividing the

class into squads, usually of six, for the preliminary discussion of and the formulation of reports upon topics which the whole class is to consider later in the hour. Each of these groups is to work together freely under a leader, but apparently the whole activity is planned and energized by the teacher.

PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION

Even at this late date it is worth while to report T. J. Penfield's paper on "A Parliamentary Organization of the English Class," read before the California Association of Teachers of English on July 18, and published in the August *Sierra News*. After a year's trial with the plan under which the class was organized as a parliamentary body, with written constitution and regular officers, holding office for four weeks, he finds these advantages: (1) that it stimulates the desire for self-expression; (2) that it brings within the range of the teacher's ear a very large volume of spontaneous speech; (3) that it greatly enhances the value and effectiveness of criticism, which is an invariable part of every session; (4) that it improves the relation between the teacher and the class; (5) that it develops the spirit of equality and democracy which results in a new attitude toward life.

RECONSTRUCTION

Now that a thousand writers are presenting a thousand different views of the coming reorganization of education, it is a relief to find two that have the same vision. Edward C. Baldwin, business agent of the Massachusetts State Board of Education, writing in the *Elementary School Journal* for November, says that we shall have to keep in mind training for efficiency and training which will enable the individual to get the most out of life. He is quite sure that we need, also, to institute means of vocational guidance which in the high school, or even earlier, shall help the youth to determine for what he is best fitted. Having reorganized our education we ought to advertise our goods. He feels that the public is really skeptical as to whether it is getting the full value of the money it now invests in education. R. M. Ogden in *School and Society* for December 7 likewise emphasizes the vocational and the cultural aspects of education as being those most in need of attention in the immediate future. He feels that the war has made us realize the necessity of vocational education and fears that we may fail to realize the necessity of the cultural and moral education. He, too, insists very strongly upon the necessity of vocational guidance of an objective and experimental sort in our schools.

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching issues as *Bulletin No. 11*, "A Study of Engineering Education," by Charles Reiborg Mann. The address of the Foundation is 576 Fifth Ave., New York City.—The University of Illinois has established a Bureau of Educational Research under the direction of B. R. Buckingham. The first bulletin of the Bureau is devoted to an announcement of plans and a classified and annotated list of standard tests. Price fifteen cents.—The Committee on Thrift Education of the National Education Association has issued a printed report called "Financing the War Through Thrift," under the chairmanship of Arthur H. Chamberlin, Editor of the *Sierra Educational News*.—The Board of Education of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has printed for free distribution among the high-school teachers of the city an address on "The New Democracy in the Teaching of English," delivered by Walter Barnes, of the Fairmont Normal School in West Virginia, before the English Section of the Educational Association of Western Pennsylvania.—*Bulletin No. 19*, Series of 1918, of the Bureau of Education is entitled "Vocational Guidance in Secondary Education, Report of a Commission appointed by the N.E.A.—An account of the training of teachers of English similar to the bulletin on "The Training of Teachers of Mathematics," by Roland C. Archibald, is needed. This bulletin is Number 27, Series of 1917, of the Bureau of Education.—The National Committee on Public Information is distributing an account of the "German-Bolshevik Conspiracy" as *War Information Series No. 20*, under date of October 1918.—*Bulletin No. 16* of the Department of Educational Investigation and Measurement of the Boston Public Schools is entitled "The Achievement of Pupils in Letterwriting." The bulletin was prepared under the direction of Frank W. Ballou, assistant superintendent in charge.—Recent bulletins of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English have been issued as follows: October, 1918, "A Sufficient Preparation for College Composition," by Herbert L. Creek; November, "Getting Down to Fundamentals," by Sterling A. Leonard; and December, "The People of the State of Illinois Against the Four Verb Brothers, Messrs. Be, Do, See, and Go," a play by H. DeF. Widger.—*The Leaflet* of the New England Association of Teachers of English reprinted in October Professor Allan Abbott's Presidential Address before the National Council on "The English Teacher and the World War"; the November number is devoted to a symposium on "The High School Library"; and the December number, to a paper on the topic, "An Effort to Secure Sincerity in Composition," by Katherine H. Shute.